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Thursday, November 8, 2012

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Wasting no time, Obama calls leaders of Congress

CHICAGO (AFP) - Fresh from his re-election triumph, President Barack Obama Wednesday called leaders in Congress to prepare the ground for a political showdown over a cresting financial crisis that could spark recession.

Obama's calls represented the president's first post-election intervention in a building political imbroglio known as the "fiscal cliff," a year end perfect storm of a budget crunch and expiring tax cuts.

The president spoke to

Speaker John Boehner, after his Republicans retained control of the House of Representatives in Tuesday's election, and also telephoned the minority Republican leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell.

The White House said Obama also spoke to Democratic allies Harry Reid, who leads the Senate Democratic majority, and Nancy Pelosi, head of minority Democrats in the House, the White House said.

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U.S. election:

President Obama stays President Obama



AFP photo shows (from L-R) US First Lady Michelle Obama, US President Barack Obama, Vice-President Joe Biden and Second Lady Jill Biden acknowledging supporters.

President Obama:

"America, I believe we can build on the progress we've made and continue to fight for new jobs and new opportunity and new security for the middle class. I believe we can keep the promise of our founders, the idea that if you're willing to work hard, it doesn't matter who you are or where you come from or what you look like or where you love. It doesn't matter whether you're black or white or Hispanic or Asian or Native American or young or old or rich or poor, able, disabled, gay or straight, you can make it here in America if you're willing to try."





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Government assures San Nicolaas a multi-functional Lotto facility



During the inauguration of the Aruba Lotto facility in the Paardenbaaisstraat in Oranjestad, the Minister Mike De Meza expressed great satisfaction for the multifunctional facility, which he said would greatly support sports on Aruba and especially the social formation of our youth and other athletes.

The government also had words of praise for the associates of Aruba Lotto, director Ronald van de Berg, Canadian Bank Note and the

strategic partners. Special mention was made of the work of the Board of Directors for their work in realizing the project.

The government also announced that evening that an Aruba Lotto multifunctional facility will be definitely realized in the San Nicolaas area. This facility is reportedly to be realized before the end of the year, and will facilitate lotto patrons above the bridge but especially the San Nicolaas area.

Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event is held at Eagle Beach

EAGLE BEACH -- There is a fantastic beach tennis tournament coming up: the Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event, held at Eagle Beach this year from November 15 - 18. The event promises to be even better than last year's. The \$15,000 prize money is drawing the world's top athletes in this relatively new sport, but it is not only the best of the best that are playing in the soft sand: in all categories and levels Aruban players and those from all over the world will be found. The promotion of the Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event has already started: organizer Sjoerd de Vries, alias Emcee Stuwie, was spotted at Cool FM radio station, hyping the event, which is sponsored by the Aruba Tourism Authority, Amstel Bright, Aruba Aloe, Señor Frog's, VW and Divi Resorts.

"A large group of Brazilian players, the Italian world champions and quite a number of



new unknowns are coming to play," says Sjoerd de Vries, who has been busy organizing the event for the last six months together with Jochem Ros and Marc Kiezenbrink. "Among them Matteo Marighella (a.k.a. The Matrix), who has won the international Aruba tournament four times already. The winners of the Hermosa Beach (Califor-

nia), a USA G1 tournament will also be playing, as well as Italian number one in the world Alessandro Calbucci. Aruba's top players will have a hard time beating those guys," predicts Sjoerd, who is personally putting his money on Marieke (Maria) Buuts, Aruba's top female player.

After registration on Thursday, November 15, the Nations Cup gets underway on Friday morning; in the afternoon there is a Youth tournament for kids between 6 - 16 years old. On Saturday and Sunday the beach at Eagle Beach will be chock full of courts and players of all ages, nations and levels battling it out.

For information, updates, results and 'likes', click on <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisaruba> or check the website beachtennisaruba.com. One thing is sure: the Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event will be sizzling hot - the tension will be rising until almost unbearable!

Hyatt Regency Aruba ranked as one of the "Top Resorts in the Caribbean" in Condé Nast Traveler's 2012 Readers' Choice Awards

PALM BEACH -- Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Casino & Spa (www.aruba.hyatt.com) announced this week that it was selected as one of the "Top Resorts in the Caribbean" in the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler 2012 Readers' Choice Awards. Hyatt Regency Aruba was ranked in the top 20 by readers who rated the resort on an array of criteria including dining, location, design, rooms, service and activities.

"We are honored to be named one of the top resorts in the Caribbean by the readers of Condé Nast Traveler as it signifies that guests are taking notice of our outstanding service,

beautiful surroundings, and abundance of amenities that cater to every traveler," said Fred Hoffmann, General Manager. "At Hyatt Aruba, we take pride in offering the best possible experience for our guests and this ranking reflects the dedication of our staff."

Condé Nast Traveler, which is regarded as one of the most trusted sources of travel advice, polls its readers annually to determine the top hotels, islands, cities, cruises and airlines in the world. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Readers' Choice Awards and the magazine received a record-breaking number of

participants with 46,476 readers.

In addition to being ranked in the 2012 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards, Hyatt Regency Aruba was granted many sought-after accolades this year reaffirming its status as the premier beachfront property on the island. In 2012, Hyatt Regency Aruba was asked to join the coveted Virtuoso Travel Network and was awarded the 2012 Pinnacle Awards and TripAdvisor's 2012 Travelers' Choice Awards.

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Wasting no time, Obama calls leaders of Congress

Continued from pg 1

(AFP)--"The president reiterated his commitment to finding bipartisan solutions to: reduce our deficit in a balanced way, cut taxes for middle class families and small businesses and create jobs," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Carney said in a statement that Obama believed Americans sent a message to Washington by returning him for a second term on Tuesday, that both parties should put aside partisan interests to put the economy first.

Congress is under intense pressure to tackle the fiscal cliff, a combination of automatic tax hikes and slashing spending cuts that are due to come into force on January 1 if no agreement is reached on budget legislation.

Obama campaigned for reelection on the idea that the wealthiest Americans should pay higher taxes, and will feel he has a mandate for such an approach.

Republicans, however,

flatly refuse to countenance any tax hikes and insist on cuts to spending on social programs that many Democrats cherish.

Boehner drew a line in the sand Tuesday night even before Obama's win was sealed.

"The American people want solutions -- and tonight, they've responded by renewing our House Republican majority," Boehner said.

"With this vote, the American people have also made clear that there is no mandate for raising tax rates."

Economists have warned that sudden tax rises and spending cuts that choke the government could tip the slowly recovering US economy back into recession, so the political stakes surrounding the fiscal cliff could not be higher.

The president placed the calls from Chicago, where he stayed at his home in the Hyde Park area following his election night party, before returning to the White House later on Wednesday.

Hundreds of flights canceled in New York storm

NEW YORK (AFP) - Airlines suspended hundreds of flights around New York on Wednesday after gale force winds and snow lashed the city where tens of thousands of people still lack electricity since superstorm Sandy.

The severe weather, with snow, sleet, rain and winds gusting to a maximum of 60 miles (96 kilometers) an hour, came just over a week after hurricane-strength Sandy wrought serious damage on the region and caused travel chaos.

The new gale, a seasonal Nor'easter expected to last 24 hours, was much less powerful than Sandy, but was being taken seriously.

United Airlines and American temporarily shut down their New York area operations, while New York City and New Jersey called for limited evacuations of low-lying areas.

"We won't order the kind of large-scale evacuation that we did during Hurricane Sandy, but if you experienced significant flooding during

Sandy you should consider taking shelter with friends," New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg said.

"So far we've not had any reports of flooding today," he added.

Sandy, which began as a deadly hurricane in the Caribbean, slammed 15 eastern US states and prompted a huge tidal surge that killed at least 109 people in the United States and Canada and caused tens of billions of dollars worth of damage.

The coastal regions of New York and New Jersey were hardest-hit when Sandy crashed ashore on October 29.

A total of 672,572 homes and businesses were without electricity on Wednesday, the US Department of Energy said, with most in New Jersey and New York. Of those, 22,000 lost power Wednesday in the Nor'easter.

Bloomberg said that 66,000 customers in New York City still remained in the dark. The main reason for the delay, the mayor said, was

that flooding seawater during Sandy had damaged electrical circuits in buildings and that meant a time-consuming clean-up before it was safe to restore power.

The latest bad weather would briefly slow down efforts to bring back electricity, pump out flooded basements, clear storm-related debris and rebuild disrupted city services, Bloomberg said.

"It will be relatively minor, but it's just more work for the utility companies," Bloomberg said. "Our expectation is that tomorrow we'll be back working."

Bloomberg said he thought New Yorkers in public housing would all be back home with heat, power and gas by the end of the week.

American Airlines and American Eagle announced a suspension of all flights in Philadelphia from 1700 GMT and in New York-area airports by 2000 GMT, affecting about 290 flights.

Operations were to resume normally once the gale passed today.



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On November 9th at Le Bistro Restaurant:

‘Around the World’ wine tasting event



Four continents, five wines. That is what the upcoming ‘Around the World’ wine tasting at Le Bistro Restaurant is focusing on. Vinologist Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company has made a terrific selection of wines from his extensive portfolio which will showcase wines from France, the USA (California) and South America (Chile and Argentina). Of course there will be tapas-sized bites to go with the fine wines, so that the palate can work overtime as the food and wine pairing goes underway. Those in the know as well as novices in the wine tasting scene will surely enjoy the evening of Friday, November 9th.

The first wine poured will be from France: a Bourgogne, Simonnet Febvre Aligote; this

excellent Bourgogne will be followed by a wine from Mendoza, Argentina: Bodegas Callia Magna Viognier San Juan. Number three is from Australia: Alice White Merlot from the South East. Chile is the country where number four is coming from: the Undurraga Sibaris Reserva Especial, a Cabernet Sauvignon from the Maipo Valley. Last but not least is an orange Muscat from California: Quady Winery Essencia Orange Muscat.

There will be two sessions of the Around the World adventure at Le Bistro in the Paseo Herencia Mall: one starting at 6.30 pm and one at 8.30. The price is \$ 28.—per person. Reservations should be made at info@lebistro-aruba.com or via 586-1392. Don’t wait too long, as space is limited.

OP ED

Elections 2012: An interesting message from voters: is anyone listening?

After weeks of being informed by political pundits that this presidential race would be a “squeaker,” President Barack Obama was re-elected with a decided margin in the Electoral College, while also winning the popular vote. This was despite billions in Super Pac donations to republican candidates, funding extensive media campaigns, as well as quite some chicanery taking place in regards to voter suppression aimed at minorities and groups inclined to vote democrat.

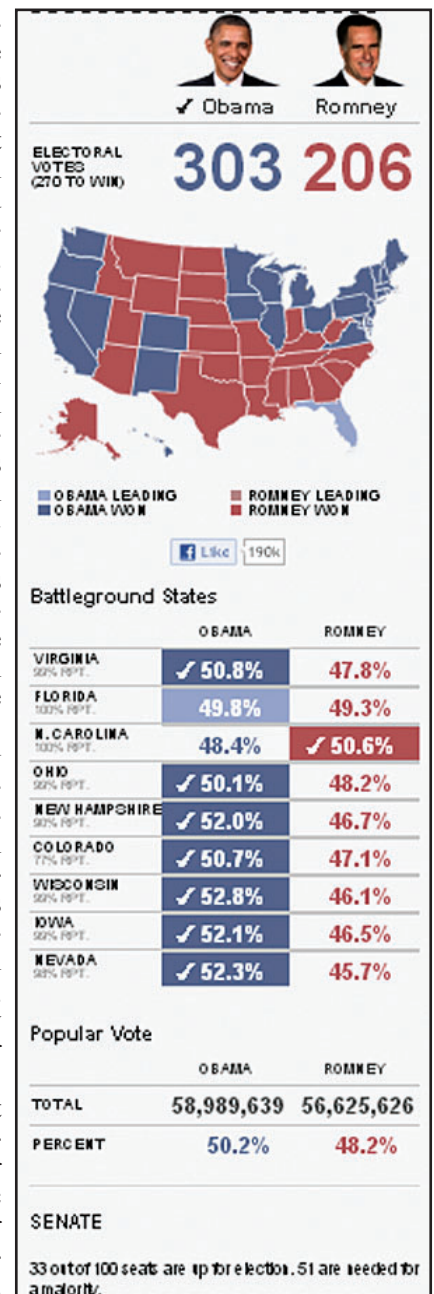
Very early on Tuesday, a “malfunctioning” voting machine in Pennsylvania was exposed by a citizen who decided to cast his ballot prior to going to work. When casting a vote for President Obama, he observed it was being recorded as a vote for Romney. Fortunately, the voter was a software developer and tech savvy, knowing how to test the results on other candidates, which worked perfectly. He brought it to the attention of the official running the polling station, who dismissed it, but he had the good sense to make a video with his phone and immediately post it to the net, which resulted in the machine being retired early in the day. Modern technology and the Internet proved effective in preventing election fraud.

Most networks were fully covering what is considered

key victories for democrats in Senate and House contests as well, such as Tammy Duckworth winning a congressional seat over incumbent freshman Joe Walsh in Illinois, and the first openly gay candidate, Tammy Baldwin, taking the Michigan senate seat. Democrats have increased their majority in the Senate, but are still well behind republicans in the House of Representatives, with republicans winning 232, more than enough to reach the 212 majority need to pass legislation. Proposed bills will get bogged down between the two disparate houses, unless bipartisan agreements can be reached.

THE MORNING NEWS went out on Election Day morning to canvas some vacationers on what they considered important issues during this crucial election. Individuals willing to chat, with the promise of anonymity, had all done their duty and cast their ballots prior to departing the U.S. Their opinions were not surprising, based on a superficial judgment of their social and economic standing. Younger career women had voted democrat, with Women Rights, and maintaining control over their bodies, key issues. They also showed concern for those who were in need, and expressed the importance of programs that would assist the less fortunate in obtaining educations. They firmly believed a country could only grow by improving the educational opportunities for the next generation. “We have no idea of what good Romney will do,” they complained. “His ticket has not put forward any positive plan that we can see, and the issues that they have defined are only negative to us, as single career women.”

It is interesting that one of our interviewees thought that Romney would win by “one of the biggest landslides the U.S. has ever seen.” Considering their personal societal and financial status, it is understandable, but



obviously, did not reflect the general consensus. Being a staunch believer that capitalism is the best system on earth, they felt a capitalist U.S. is severely threatened by the current administration. “Men’s greed will manage the situation,” he said. “The strong survive and weak businesses go out of business, which is capitalism and moves the economy.” He is firmly convinced that nothing is free, which is true, but also believes the wealthier in the U.S. will end up paying for everything, as the current administration is working, in his opinion, to tax higher income brackets at unrealistic percentages. It is understandable why the Romney/Ryan position would be so attractive.

Romney supporters expressed their great concern that President Obama was leading the country down the road of socialism, one describing him as a “socialist, communist and Marxist.”

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Elections 2012: An interesting message from voters . . .

Continued from page 4

Their principal complaint was President Obama had not achieved the change he promised, to which his supporters responded it would not have been possible with the existing opposition in the House, and he deserves another four years to achieve his stated goals. "We feel it is time to give Romney a chance and see what he can do," was a common thread in those deciding to vote republican.

Another common thread among those interviewed was

distaste for the congressional legislative system, which all felt should be overhauled. The influence of lobbyists, and the need for candidates to compromise their constituents in their bid for reelection, is corrupting the representatives and the entire process, in their opinion. This was a universal complaint, whether voting republican or democrat.

Political spending, particularly on television ads, was at an all-time high this past campaign, by both parties. Huge

donations, enabled by the upholding of the constitutionality of Super PACs, allowed special interest groups to put enormous funds behind the candidates of their choice. Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson set a new record, by donating \$70 million dollars to his republican favorites; nearly triple the previously recorded highest amount. In a rare interview, he stated he was willing to donate up to \$100 million, to get President Obama out of office. He ended the evening 0-6 on all

the candidates he supported. This was coupled with several resounding Tea Party candidates being defeated, which is sending a clear message to the Republican Party, about those who seek to control the direction of the government through huge financial contributions, and their fringe element.

Obviously, pandering to the very vocal and high profile Tea Party platform is not paying off for republicans; this does not reflect the general attitude

of the voting public. Also, today's media, particularly the Internet, can refute misleading campaign rhetoric, and fact-checkers are being very diligent about getting the truth out there. Continued and false statements, bordering on propaganda, are being pounced upon and exposed. The policy of systematic character assassination as a political tool is not quite working as well as it did previously. A generation that turns more frequently to the net, rather than TV, to not only get the story, but also provide their personal input, is growing and changing the game.

A pundit panel on Current TV, admittedly a democratic station, founded by Vice President Al Gore, was all smiles as one democratic victory after another was announced. A number of terms were used to describe this election, including "a vindication of logic, fact and reason." Jennifer Granholm, former Attorney General of Michigan and its 47th Governor, called it a "vindication of morality...this was a moral choice. People chose to make sure that we cared for one another, it was a fundamental choice of who we are as a nation, and the people chose. I am proud of that."

Towards 11:00 PM, when reliable percentages of poll results began pouring in, websites such as Facebook and Twitter were abuzz with commentary, not only from the U.S. One local political observer commented, "In my memory, I can't recall a recent U.S. election that has so captured the attention of the general population of other nations. This was a very important election as to the direction the U.S. would go." Far earlier than they thought, news stations were naming President Obama the winner, with Fox News a holdout until hours later. That is also quite telling about this election. Though the electoral votes won by President Obama were not as great as in 2008, it was a substantial margin. The final count was not even close, as so many predicted over the past weeks. This shows there is a much greater approval rating for the incumbent than many would imagine, or that the republican ticket was just not good enough. In any case, it will be very interesting to see what happens over the next four years, and what the 2016 elections will bring.

Rosalie Klein

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Remember Latino voters, Latin American leaders tell Obama

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - From neighbor Mexico to emerging power Brazil, Latin American leaders welcomed US President Barack Obama's re-election Wednesday as some urged him to remember the role Latinos played in his big win.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, whose government has urged Washington to enact immigration reform to regularize the status of millions of Mexican migrants illegally in the United States, congratulated Obama and wished him "success" in his second term.

In a letter, Calderon said he was convinced both nations will "continue to widen and deepen their cooperation and coordinate their work for the benefit of prosperity, security and competitiveness in Mexico and the United States."

While Obama has disappointed many Latinos for failing to fulfill a 2008 campaign promise to enact comprehensive immigration reform, Mexico has received US aid to combat drug trafficking.

Calderon's successor Enrique Pena Nieto, who takes office on December 1, wrote on Twitter that he would per-

sonally congratulate Obama in an upcoming US trip and wants to work with him "for the benefit of our nations."

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff also congratulated Obama, a sentiment shared by other governments across Latin America.

Ecuador and Bolivia pointed out that Obama's victory over Republican Mitt Romney was in part thanks to the support of the 52 million-strong Hispanic community, the largest minority group in the United States.

Bolivian President Evo Morales said Obama should pay back Latinos by lifting the decades-old US embargo on Cuba.

"We were told Obama won in the United States, but with the Latino immigrant vote. Now, how will he pay back the Latino migrants?" the leftist leader said.

Guatemalan President Otto Perez pressed Obama to act on his country's request to include Guatemalans in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program, which allows migrants from designated countries to legally stay in the United States for a period of time.

Regime grabbing most aid sent to Syria Red Crescent: NGO

GENEVA (AFP) - Almost all international aid sent to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is being confiscated by the regime and never reaches civilians in need, an umbrella relief group for the war-ravaged country said Wednesday, although major aid humanitarian organisations denied the claims.

"Ninety, even 95 percent of everything that is sent to Syrian Red headquarters in Damascus goes to support the Syrian regime, especially the soldiers...", said Tawfik Chamaa, spokesman for the Union of Syrian Medical Relief Organisations (UOSSM).

"It will not reach the civilians who are bombed every day or besieged," he told reporters in Geneva.

However, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which both work closely with the Syrian Red Crescent, denied their aid was being seized.

Dutch PM congratulates Obama, looks forward to four more years

THE HAGUE -- Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte has congratulated Barack Obama on his re-election as president of the United States and says he looks forward to continuing their 'excellent' working relationship, news agency ANP reported yesterday.

'Congratulations to president Barack Obama on his re-election after an extremely exciting race,' Rutte said in a statement from Istanbul, where he is leading a trade mission.

'The Netherlands looks forward to continuing the excellent alliance with the Obama administration in a number of areas over the next four years.'

Referring to the trade and investment relationship between the two countries, Rutte said: 'We want that to grow further in the future. The Netherlands will therefore put effort into establishing a free trade agreement between the US and the European Union.'

Foreign minister Frans Timmermans also sent his best wishes to the president. 'In a changed world, the trans-Atlantic relationship is an anchor.

The Netherlands and its partners will continue to invest in this,' ANP quoted the new minister as saying.

15 may be dead in Guatemala quake: president

GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - The death toll in Guatemala's earthquake rose to 39 victims on Wednesday, President Otto Perez said as he toured the disaster area in the southwest of the country.

"We have to lament the death of 39 people. It is a tragedy," Perez told reporters, raising the toll after preliminary reports of 15 deaths.

Guatemala's president said around 39 people may have died in an earthquake on Wednesday while another 100 people may be missing in the southwest of the country.

"We have reports of three dead from the San Marcos hospital that have been confirmed," President Otto Perez told a press conference.

"Other preliminary information, has not been confirmed."

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President Obama revives 'hope' with re-election win

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Glowing with triumph, President Barack Obama revived his old theme of hope yesterday, telling Americans "the best is yet to come" after defying dark economic omens with a decisive re-election win.

The 44th US president and the first African American to claim the Oval Office was returned to power after a joyless election which appears to have deepened, rather than healed, his nation's political divide.

"In this election, you, the American people, reminded us that while our road has been hard, while our journey has been long, we have picked ourselves up, we have fought our way back," Obama, 51, said at a victory party in Chicago.

"I have never been more hopeful about America. And I ask you to sustain that hope," Obama said, striving for inspiration rarely shown in a campaign where the prophet of hope of 2008 became a conventional, brawling politician.

"I have always believed that

Obama said.

As Obama's victory was confirmed with wins in rustbelt Ohio and his spiritual political home in Iowa, large crowds suddenly materialized outside the White House, chanting "four more years" and "Obama, O-bama."

Republican nominee Romney, 65, deflated and exhausted, offered a classy tribute, as he consoled dejected supporters in Boston moments after phoning Obama to formally concede.

"This is a time of great challenges for America and I pray that the president will be successful in guiding our nation," Romney said.

In a show of bipartisanship after a searing campaign, the president said he wanted to meet his vanquished foe to find common ground to move America forward.

Obama's victory means that he will get the chance to embed his healthcare and Wall Street reforms deep into the fabric of American life -- Romney had pledged one of his first acts would be the repeal of Obamacare.

The president may also get the chance to reshape the Supreme Court in his liberal image for a generation, a move

that would shape policy on issues like abortion and gay rights.

The president will also look abroad as he builds his legacy, and will face an immediate challenge early in 2013 over whether to use military force to thwart Iran's nuclear program.

Obama's win on Tuesday bucked history, as it came with the unemployment rate pegged at 7.9 percent, the highest level for a re-elected president in more than 70 years.

Remarkably, his coalition of Hispanic, black, and young voters turned out in similar numbers to those of his heady change-fueled campaign in 2008, shocking Romney's team and presenting a new American face to the world.

But once the euphoria fades, the president will face a tough task enacting his second term agenda after Republicans, who thwarted him repeatedly in his first mandate, retained control of the House of Representatives.

Democrats kept the Senate but fell short of the 60-vote super majority needed to sidestep minority blocking tactics.

Obama will soon face a showdown with Republicans on Capitol Hill over the so-called "fiscal cliff" -- a combination of dramatic spending cuts and tax increases set to take effect if US lawmakers cannot cut a deal on the deficit.

It remains to be seen whether Republicans -- who have opposed the president tooth and nail for the last four years -- will be more conciliatory after Romney's drubbing or double down to block any potential legacy projects.

The president paved the way to victory with a staunch defense of Democratic bastions in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan, at which Romney had made a last-minute run when he saw more conventional paths to the White House blocked.

Obama also locked in



Keesha Patterson of Ft. Washington, Maryland (L) proposes marriage to her girlfriend Rowan Ha (R) during the election night victory rally at re-elected President Barack Obama headquarters in Chicago.

swing states, including Virginia -- where he became the first Democrat to win since 1964 four years ago -- Nevada, Ohio, New Hampshire, Colorado and Iowa, crushing Romney's slim hopes of a viable path to victory.

Romney could only wrestle Indiana and North Carolina from Obama's 2008 map.

The win in Iowa will be especially sweet for Obama, as the heartland state nurtured his unlikely White House dreams way back in 2007. A tear rolled down his cheek as he held his last-ever campaign rally there late Monday.

His victory in Ohio represents a delayed repayment for his gutsy call in 2009 to mandate a federal bailout of the auto industry, on which one in eight jobs in the state depend. Romney had opposed the move.

Obama won with a fiercely negative campaign branding Romney -- a multi-millionaire former corporate turnaround wizard -- as indifferent to the woes of the middle class.

Exit polls showed that though only 39 percent of people believed that the economy was improving, around half of Americans blamed former Republican president George W. Bush for the tenuous situation,

and not Obama.

Obama's victory was a complete vindication for a campaign team that had predicted a close but winnable election, despite the painful after-effects of the deepest economic crisis since the 1930s Great Depression.

He was also helped by Latino voters, whose strong support was crucial in the western desert state of Nevada and the Rocky Mountain state of Colorado.

Republicans had insisted right up to election day that Obama's army, disaffected by busted expectations for his first term, would stay home, and had predicted instead a late Republican wave that would elevate Romney.

The president ran for re-election on a platform of offering a "fair shot" to the middle class, of fulfilling his pledge to end the war in Iraq, killing Osama bin Laden, and starting to build a clean energy economy.

The president may have been helped at the 11th hour when superstorm Sandy roared ashore, killing more than 100 Americans but giving Obama the chance to project leadership at the head of a multi-state disaster response.



Ajay Narayan cheers as the race is called for U.S. President Barack Obama by a television network during the Nevada State Democrats' election night party at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas.

hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting,"

ney had pledged one of his first acts would be the repeal of Obamacare.

The president may also get the chance to reshape the Supreme Court in his liberal image for a generation, a move

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Health & Living

Socialist leader on manslaughter charge over asbestos deaths



PARIS (AFP) - Martine Aubry, the former leader of France's governing Socialist Party, has been charged with manslaughter in a probe into whether state negligence contributed to thousands of deaths caused by asbestos exposure.

The charges against Aubry relate to her time as a senior official in the ministry of social affairs, before she became a major figure in French politics.

As the ministry's director of industrial relations from 1984-87, Aubry is accused of having helped to delay the implementation in France of a 1983 European Union directive designed to strengthen the protection of workers dealing with asbestos.

The examining magistrate

in the case believes Aubry bowed to pressure from industrialists lobbying against a complete ban on the use of the material and that she ignored warnings from French health authorities of a mushrooming epidemic of cancers and terminal lung diseases.

The specific charges against her relate to the case of workers employed at the Fereco-Valeo auto-components factory in Normandy. Asbestos was once widely used for car brake pads.

An estimated 3,000 people currently die prematurely every year in France as a result of asbestos poisoning and there have been pessimistic predictions that the death rate could nearly treble over the next decade because of exposure in the 70s and 80s.

Looking old linked to more heart risks



WASHINGTON (AFP) - If you look old, you might be at higher risk of heart trouble.

People with several visible signs of aging such as hair loss and fatty deposits around the eyes have a higher risk of developing heart problems than those of the same age who look younger, according to a study presented yesterday.

The study, focused on almost 11,000 people aged 40 and older, found that those who had three to four aging signs had a 57 percent increased risk of heart attack and a 39 percent increased risk for heart disease.

Among the aging signs cited were a receding hairline at the temples, baldness at the crown of the head, earlobe creases and yellow fatty deposits around the eyelids.

Over the course of 35 years of follow-up, 3,401 of the participants developed heart disease and 1,708 had a heart attack.

"Individually and combined, these signs predicted heart attack and heart disease independent of traditional risk factors," said the American Heart Association. "Fatty deposits around the eye were the strongest individual predictor of both heart attack and heart disease."

The risk of having a heart attack and developing heart disease increased with each additional sign of aging among both men and women, who made up 45 percent of survey participants. The strongest individual predictor of both were fatty deposits around the eyes.

The highest risks were observed among those in their 70s and those with several signs of aging.

"Checking these visible aging signs should be a routine part of every doctor's physical examination," Tybjaerg-Hansen said.

What should my cholesterol be?

-- Normal cholesterol and blood fat levels will help prevent heart disease and stroke, the biggest health problems for people with diabetes. Keeping cholesterol levels under control can also help with blood flow. Have your blood fat levels checked at least once a year. Meal planning, physical activity, and medicines can help you reach your blood fat targets:

Target Blood Fat Levels for People With Diabetes	
Total cholesterol	below 200
LDL cholesterol	below 100
HDL cholesterol	above 40 (men) above 50 (women)
Triglycerides	below 150

Smoking and diabetes are a dangerous combination. Smoking raises your risk for diabetes problems. If you quit smoking, you'll lower your risk for heart attack, stroke, nerve disease, and kidney disease. Your cholesterol and your blood pressure levels may improve. Your blood circulation will also improve.

Exercising 10 minutes a day

-- It's no surprise that exercise is good for you and will help you live longer.

According to U.S. researchers, exercising 10 minutes a day can boost life expectancy. Even as little as 75 minutes a week of physical activity can extend your life by two years.

Even for the severely obese — those with a body mass index above 35 — exercising for about 2.5 hours a week at moderate intensity or for 75 minutes at vigorous levels puts average life expectancy a notch above that of a normal-weight person who is sedentary, the research shows.

The benefit of exercise was seen regardless of people's weight, age, sex and health conditions such as heart disease and cancer.

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Sci-Tech

Link between cyclones, climate change unclear: *scientists*



PARIS (AFP) - Was Hurricane Sandy caused by climate change?

This was the contention last week of Andrew Cuomo, governor of New York state, which bore the brunt of the superstorm.

Many climate scientists would agree with Cuomo when it comes to identifying the cause of the record-breaking droughts and floods of recent years.

But when it comes to tropical storms, the experts also say they cannot give a black-or-white answer for one of the most complex issues in meteorology.

Tropical storms are fuelled by warm seas, so intuition says that as ocean temperatures rise, hurricanes -- known as ty-

phoons in Asia -- should become more frequent and more brutal.

But a clear rise in Earth's surface temperature since the 1970s has so far failed to engender a similar increase in tropical cyclone numbers, which have remained stable at about 90 per year.

In the Atlantic alone, however, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says major storms have become more frequent and intense since 1995.

The agency also warns that science right now cannot tease out how much of the change should be attributed to natural climate variability, and how much to man-made warming.

As for the future, experts give conflicting or sketchy

predictions of what could happen this century, when surface temperatures are predicted to warm two or three degrees Celsius (3.5 to five degrees Fahrenheit).

Serge Planton, head of climate research at French weather forecasting service Météo France, explained why the picture is so fuzzy.

"A cyclone depends not only on the sea surface temperature, but also on the structure of the winds at every layer of the atmosphere. This means it does not respond in a simple, linear fashion to climate change."

When it comes to storm surge, there seems to be more scientific consensus that climate change's impact is clear.

Sandy's swells were entirely consistent with scenarios sketched by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in a report on extreme weather events, published in March, contended Mitchell.

The IPCC report had said it was also likely that tropical cyclones will increase rainfall this century, and placed a heavy emphasis on preparedness to reduce the risk to lives and property.

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Pacific's Tokelau in world first solar switch

WELLINGTON (AFP) - The remote Pacific islands of Tokelau have become the first territory in the world to generate their electricity entirely from solar energy, in a project hailed as an environmental milestone.

Before the solar power grid was completed, the New Zealand-administered grouping of three coral atolls, with a population of just 1,500, relied on diesel generators for electricity.

Project coordinator Mike Bassett-Smith said the diesel was not only environmentally unfriendly, it also cost the islands, which lie about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii, around NZ\$1.0 million (\$825,000) a year.

Bassett-Smith, from New

Zealand firm PowerSmart Solar, said the change would allow Tokelau to switch money from fuel purchases to social welfare projects.

"For Tokelau, this milestone is of huge importance for their continued well-being," he said in a statement received Wednesday.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said the US\$7.0 million project had achieved a world first and Wellington was working with other Pacific nations such as Tonga and the Cook Islands to develop renewable energy.

"Completed on time and on budget, the project is an excellent example of how small Pacific nations can lead the way on renewable energy," he said.

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SANTIAGO DE CHILE : People look at solar vehicles that will compete in the Atacama Solar Challenge, in Santiago on November 07, 2012. The race would take place next on November 15 in the Atacama desert, northern Chile.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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TAR HEEL STATE

ACROSS

1. No longer is
4. Part of UAE
8. Sentimental ones
12. Industrious insect
13. "...I ___ man with seven wives"
14. Triumvirate
15. "Isn't ___ Pity?"
16. Hebrew letter
17. Aries or Taurus
18. Motto on a Tar Heel's license
21. Tease
22. First name in wolfmen
23. Vicinity

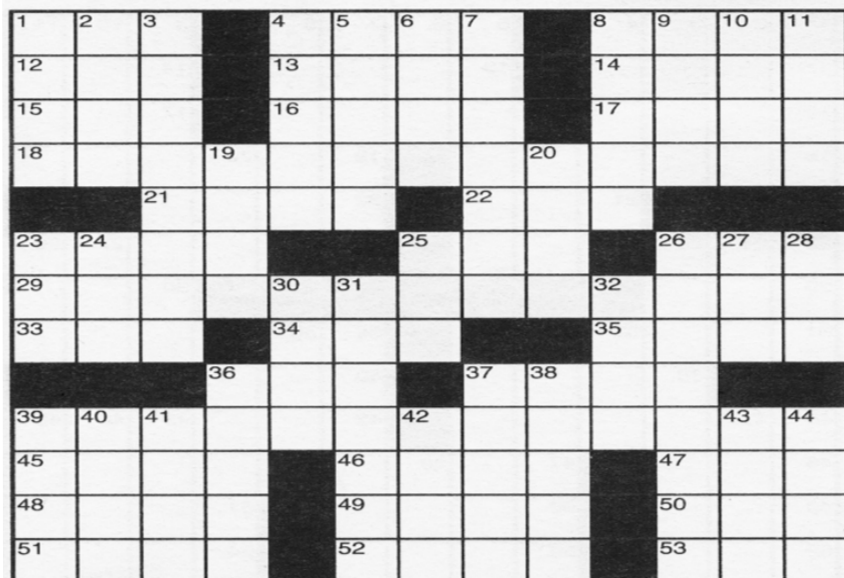
25. Small barrel
26. Animal doctor, for short
29. Tar Heel State
33. "Of course!"
34. Take nourishment
35. Unique thing
36. Chum
37. Pure sound
39. Tar Heel State's famed flyboy
45. Complain without words
46. Some New Haven residents
47. Bern's river
48. Give off

49. Nevada
50. 17th Greek letter
51. Canine
52. "Nobody knows the Trouble I've ___"
53. Met

DOWN

1. Gamin
2. One against
3. First-string players
4. Teacher of Stradivari
5. Kindled anew
6. "...o'clock scholar"

7. One who creates conundrums
8. Pollute
9. Cut ___ (jitterbug)
10. Essence
11. Coal dust
19. Hit flies
20. Company's symbol
23. "___ Given Sunday"
24. Caviar
25. Krazy cartoon character
26. Cruet liquids
27. Chemical suffix
28. Goopy roof sealant
30. Make healthy
31. They keep MCI in business
32. Actress Anderson
36. Ship funded by Isabella
37. Gardener's string
38. Actor Bean
39. Harbinger
40. Downey of "Touched by an Angel"
41. Self-infatuated
42. Confederate general Robt.
43. Barrier set in a ditch
44. Move at a medium pace



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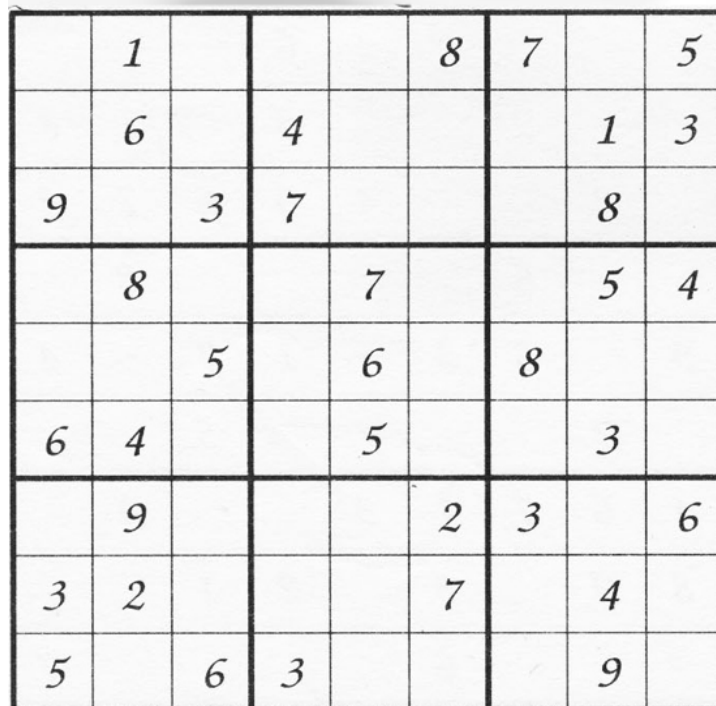
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	6	2	1	4	9	5	3	7
1	4	5	3	6	8	7	2	9
9	2	1	8	5	3	6	7	4
4	1	6	5	8	2	7	9	3
6	3	8	7	9	1	5	4	2
3	5	9	4	2	7	6	8	1
2	8	7	9	1	4	5	6	3
5	1	6	3	2	7	9	8	4
7	9	4	8	6	3	1	2	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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EU: Europe faces drawn-out, painful economic recovery

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Europe's economic prospects have dimmed considerably, new EU forecasts showed yesterday, pointing to a drawn-out and painful recovery before any return to growth.

Record and mounting unemployment, much weaker projections for next year and only a muted improvement in 2014 are, however, the price to pay for stabilising public finances and re-balancing the economy, the European Commission argued.

Restoring countries to health after years of both internal and external imbalances takes time and the measures required dampen growth but there has been progress, it noted.

Further progress in fixing strained public finances "is underpinning this rebalancing

process," the commission said.

After years of over-spending, austerity and violent protests, the Commission found enough positives to conclude that Greece should finally emerge from seven years of recession in 2014.

The Commission said eurozone growth next year would come in at just 0.1 percent, whereas six months ago, it was tipping a much stronger recovery of 1.0 percent.

It said gross domestic product (GDP) across the 17-state currency area would shrink 0.4 percent in 2012 and would take until 2014 to recover, with expected growth then of 1.4 percent.

The Commission expected the United States to far outstrip Europe, with steadily-increasing growth above the two-percent mark going forward.

Rehn said there was still a risk that unemployment -- put at nearly 12 percent next year in the eurozone -- could undo progress on financial markets where the pressures on government borrowing rates have eased in the past few months.

With inflation next year forecast to "fall below two percent," the core target underpinning eurozone-wide economic planning, Rehn said decisions taken at some two dozen crisis summits had "laid the foundations for strengthening confi-

dence." But with struggling Spain and Italy expected to remain mired in recession this year and next, Rehn added "there is no room for complacency."

Greece meanwhile should see 0.6-percent growth in 2014, the Commission said. The Greek economy has shrunk by around a fifth since the crisis first broke and the Commission forecasts were notably stronger than those of the government which expects 0.2 percent in 2014, 2.5 percent in 2015 and 3.5 percent come 2016.

In Spain, the bursting of a property bubble in 2008 and the near collapse of the banks has forced Madrid to tighten the purse strings, sending unemployment soaring to around 25 percent. It will hit more than 26 percent next year, according to the Commission.

Falling further behind euro anchor Germany -- tipped to run roughly balanced budgets between now and 2014 -- France will have a public deficit of 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013, compared with its own target of 3.0 percent.

"Prospects for an imminent recovery have waned," the Commission said, citing rising unemployment and tax hikes, adding that "French companies are set to continue to lose export market shares."

Finance

Oil prices slump \$4 in fierce sell-off

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices plunged more than \$4 a barrel Wednesday, giving up Tuesday's sharp gains and more, as markets reacted to gloomy EU economic forecasts.

Sentiment was also dented by profit-taking, a stronger dollar and disappointing US crude inventories data that signalled weak demand in the world's biggest oil consuming nation.

In late afternoon deals, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in December tumbled \$3.48 to \$107.59 per barrel, having briefly climbed above \$111 in the wake of Obama's triumph.

In New York trade, WTI crude for December delivery lost \$4.27 from Tuesday's close, settling at \$84.44 a barrel.

Wall Street shares dived two percent on Wednesday, pulling European equities sharply lower, as President Barack Obama's re-election victory set up a tough battle with Republicans over a looming "fiscal cliff".

Obama won a resounding victory over Republican challenger Mitt Romney for another four-year term in a closely fought race late Tuesday.

However, voters left Congress divided, with Democrats maintaining the Senate and Republicans holding the House of Representatives.

Elsewhere, new EU forecasts showed that Europe's economic prospects have dimmed considerably, and pointed to a drawn-out and painful recovery before any return to growth.

The European Commission slashed its eurozone economic growth forecast for next year to just 0.1 percent, six months

after tipping a much stronger recovery of 1.0 percent.

The news sent the euro tumbling to \$1.2737 in intra-day trade, which was the lowest level since September 7. A stronger greenback tends to hit dollar-priced oil, which becomes more expensive for buyers using weaker currencies.

Official data meanwhile revealed slumps in German and Spanish industrial output during September.

"Crude oil began the day higher as investors in Asia and Europe woke up to news that Obama was re-elected as the President of America," said analyst Fawad Razaqada at trading group GFT Markets.

"However the gains quickly evaporated and by lunch time both Brent and WTI had turned lower.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for December dropped \$4.25 to \$106.82 a barrel.

"Sentiment turned sour on Mario Draghi's comments about the eurozone economy and after some disappointing data releases.

"What really pulled the rug from under the remaining bulls was news that the European Commission had slashed its growth forecast for the eurozone across the board."

In addition on Wednesday, the US government's Energy Information Administration revealed that American crude inventories climbed 1.8 million barrels in the week ending November 2. Rising stockpiles indicate weaker demand.

Gasoline or petrol reserves meanwhile jumped 2.9 million barrels as superstorm Sandy crimped driving in the northeastern US and forced many fuel terminals to halt operations.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 11/07/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britiaian	GBP	2.78	2.83	2.89
Switzerland	CHF	187.98	188.70	189.50
Netherlands	EUR	224.96	227.01	229.29
Sweden	SEK	25.55	26.27	27.07
Denmark	DKK	29.47	30.19	30.99
Norway	NOK	30.05	30.77	31.57
Japan	JPY	220.31	222.32	224.56

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French to die out after gay marriage: industrialist Dassault



PARIS (AFP) - France's Socialist government Wednesday adopted a draft law to authorise gay marriage and adoption despite fierce opposition from the Roman Catholic Church and the right-wing opposition.

President Francois Hollande, who made the issue a key part of his electoral platform, told a cabinet meeting the move was "not only a step forward for some but for all of society," government spokeswoman Najat Vallaud-Belkacem said.

French industrialist and media magnate Serge Dassault later weighed into France's bitter debate over gay marriage with a warning that if it is allowed, the French will have died out within a decade.

The comment came the same day that the Socialist government adopted a draft law to authorise homosexual marriage and adoption, despite fierce opposition from the Roman Catholic Church and the right-wing opposition.

Dassault, who is boss of the major defence group of the same name, owner of Le Figaro newspaper, and a right-wing Senator, said that if gay marriage was allowed, "there will be no renewal of the population".

"We'll have a land of homos. And then in 10 years there will be no-one left. It's stupid," the 87-year-old told France Culture radio.

He said homosexuality was one of the causes of decadence in ancient Greece.

"Total decadence, of course. It's the end of the family, it's the end of the children's development, it's the end of education. It's a danger for the entire nation," said Dassault.

The draft law on gay marriage, a cornerstone of the election manifesto that brought President Francois Hollande to power in May, has come under fierce attack in a country that is officially secular but predominantly Catholic.

It now has to be voted through parliament before becoming law. Hollande has promised it will be on the statute books by mid-2013.

Over 29,000 killed in El Salvador crime: report

SAN SALVADOR (AFP) - More than 29,000 people have been murdered in El Salvador in the last seven years, although the rate of killings has dropped in the past year, according to a non-governmental organization.

The Fundacion Guillermo Manuel Ungo (Fundango) said Wednesday that some 27,000 people were killed between 2005 and 2011 while less than 2,000 were killed between January and August of this year.

The most highly targeted group was men aged 15-29,

but more than 3,000 women had also been killed since 2005, the group said.

Central America has seen a spike in crime as Mexico's powerful cartels have gradually expanded south, but El Salvador has seen a drop in violence since its two most notorious homegrown gangs agreed to a truce in March.

The daily homicide rate has dropped from 14 to 5.5 since the March truce between the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18 gangs, though experts have cautioned the calm may not last.

Argentines to hold pot-bagging protest

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Opponents of President Cristina Kirchner called on fellow Argentines to bang their cooking pots today in a noisy protest against any possible bid she might run for a third term.

"Say no to reelection," said the call to protest which was sent across the country via social media websites.

Kirchner, 59, is currently barred by the Argentine Constitution from running for a third consecutive term, but her supporters in the Congress have been lobbying for a constitutional amendment.

Argentina's first elected female president, Kirchner was

voted into the office in 2007. She succeeded her husband, Nestor Kirchner, who died of a heart attack in 2010.

Kirchner was reelected in October 2011 for a second four-year term, and by law is prohibited from running again, unless the constitution is revised allowing her to do so.

But opinion polls have shown that the right-of-center leader has an uphill climb to being allowed to stand for reelection -- more than 80 percent of the public has said they are against changing the constitution to allow her to run again, according to a recent opinion poll.

Ancient mummy back to Peru

LIMA (AFP) - Bolivian authorities on Tuesday returned to Peru the ancient mummy of a young girl that was intercepted by police as it was about to be illegally shipped to France. The mummy, which dates from between the years 1200 and 1450, was discovered in October 2010 when a Bolivian citizen was attempting to send a box to the French city of Compiègne to be then presumably sent to an auction house, Peru's Ministry of Culture said in the statement.

When authorities opened the box they found the mummified remains of a girl approximately two years old in a fetal position. The child's body was wrapped in five layers of cotton and wool fabric, and experts said she likely lived among people who lived centuries ago on Peru's southern coast. Bolivian Cultures Minister Pablo Groux Canedo handed over the mummy to Peruvian counterpart Luis Peirano at an event at Peru's foreign ministry.



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a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.



Osso Buco with Risotto

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations

can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

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Boxing: Shooting-victim El-Halabi set to box for world title



ULM (AFP) - Germany's former boxing world champion Rola El-Halabi is set to fulfil her dream in January to box again, nearly two years after she was gunned down by her step-father in a vicious attack.

The 27-year-old El-Halabi, who won the women's IBA and IBF lightweight titles in 2009, will climb into the ring on January 13 when she takes on Italy's Lucia Morelli in Ulm for the vacant IBA lightweight title.

But El-Halabi's life was turned upside down on April 1 2011 when her stepfather and former manager Hicham El-Halabi shot her in her right hand, left knee and both feet in her dressing room before she was due to box in Berlin.

The attack came after she terminated his management contract in January 2011 and he also shot two security guards before being arrested at the stadium.

In November last year, he was jailed for six years by a court in Berlin.

Her injuries left her in a wheelchair for three months, but El-Halabi says her dream is to become a world champion again, but she is happy just to climb into the ring once more.

The Beirut-born boxer, who now lives in Ulm, Bavaria, says she had plenty of motivation to fight again.

"Actually, I have always been motivated to take the hard path, I never had anyone who has done something for me and I am taking this will to win into the fight," she said.

"I didn't retire then and that has motivated me to keep fighting and always has."

El-Halabi said her fiance has helped her through her tough journey back to full fitness, but she has no plans to stay in contact with her step father.

El-Halabi says a simple five kilometre run, just after she came out of the wheelchair following surgery for her injuries, was part of her inspiration to fight again.

With a world title on the line, El-Halabi says the goal for her second career is to lift her arms in the air after victory in the ring.

"I want to fulfill that dream and then as a winner, I can say, Ok, that was great. That's enough."



Italy's Lucia Morelli

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SPORTS

Football:

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan international striker Hisato Sato helped Sanfrecce Hiroshima to a 3-0 victory over Consadole Sapporo on Wednesday, taking a two-points lead over Vegalta Sendai in the J-League standings.

With the results, Hiroshima took the lead in the standings on 58 points, ahead of Sendai on 56 points, with three more games each left in the season.

Urawa Red Diamonds and Nagoya Grampus trailed them on 49 points apiece, followed by Shimizu S-Pulse on 48 points, Yokohama Marinos and Sagan Tosu on 47 points.

Urawa crashed to a 4-2 defeat to Kawasaki Frontale as Brazilian forward Renato scored a hat-trick for Kawasaki in the first half.

Nagoya downed FC Tokyo 1-0, Shimizu went down to Albirex Niigata 1-0, while Yokohama defeated Vissel Kobe 2-1. Tosu outclassed Jubilo Iwata 3-2 with forward Yohei Toyoda helping them with a pair of goals.

Kashima Antlers and Omiya Ardija played out a goalless draw, while defending champions Kashiwa Reysol were held to a 2-2 draw by Gamba Osaka with a last-minute equaliser.

While Roberto Mancini declared Manchester City's Champions League campaign over after seeing his side held 2-2 by Ajax on a contentious evening at the Etihad Stadium.

Tuesday's result left the Eng-

lish champions five points below second-place Real Madrid in Group D with only two points from four games, and although wins in their last two matches could take them through, Mancini feels it is too late.

It leaves City on the verge of elimination in the group phase for the second year in a row, and Mancini said his side had been made to pay for previous failings in the 3-2 loss at Real Madrid and the 3-1 defeat at Ajax.

City's campaign will be over if they fail to win at home to Madrid in their next game on November 21, but Ajax will approach the visit of leaders Borussia Dortmund with renewed hope of crashing into the qualifying places.

Manager Arsene Wenger was left rueing his side's missed chances after Arsenal threw away a two-goal lead as Schalke 04 fought back to draw 2-2 in the Champions League to leave Group B wide open.

The draw leaves Schalke top of the table with eight points while Arsenal are just a point behind in second, with Olympiakos third on six points after their 3-1 win over bottom Montpellier, leaving all still to play for in the group.

Scottish champions Celtic stunned four-time Champions League winners Barcelona on Wednesday, running out 2-1 winners in their Group G match just a day after the victors celebrated their 125th birthday.

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Yasmani Grandal suspended 50 games for testosterone use



-- San Diego Padres catcher Yasmani Grandal has been suspended for 50 games without pay by the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball after testing positive for testosterone, a violation of Major

League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

Grandal's suspension will be effective at the start of the 2013 season.

The 23-year-old rookie was part of the package the Padres received last offseason from the Cincinnati Reds in the Mat Latos deal. He hit .297/.394/.469 with eight home runs in 60 games and was a big reason that Padres fans were harboring offseason optimism after a solid finish to the 2012 season.

Mets terminate Jason Bay's contract



INDIAN WELLS, Calif. -- The Mets announced in a statement that they have reached an agreement with outfielder Jason Bay to terminate his contract two years early, granting him unconditional free agency. Financial terms were not disclosed, though Bay was owed \$16 million next season and an additional \$3 million to buy out his \$17 million salary for 2014. It is unclear how much of that burden the Mets absorbed. Bay signed a four-year, \$66 million deal with the Mets before the 2010 season and went into a steady decline. He hit .165 in just 70 games and finished the season on the bench. In three seasons with the Mets, the 34-year-old Bay hit .234 with 26 homers, falling well short of expectations. "Jason has a tremendous work ethic. There was never any question about it," general manager Sandy Alderson said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the results weren't there and we are in a results-oriented business. We thank Jason for his efforts and wish him well." Bay, intends to keep playing, even after suffering through the worst season of his career.

Mark McGwire as Dodgers hitting coach



LOS ANGELES -- Mark McGwire is the new Los Angeles Dodgers hitting coach, general manager Ned Colletti announced Wednesday. McGwire, who broke baseball's single-season home run record in 1998 and later admitted to using steroids, lives in Orange County, about 40 miles south of Dodger Stadium. McGwire informed the St. Louis Cardinals that he was accepting the Dodgers offer last week. The Cardinals on Friday promoted John Mabry to be McGwire's successor.



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Boxing: Hall of Fame fighter Basilio dies



NEW YORK (AFP) - Carmen Basilio, a welterweight and middleweight world champion in the 1950s known for two epic fights with Sugar Ray Robinson, died Wednesday at the age of 85.

The International Boxing Hall of Fame, located in Basilio's hometown of Canastota, New York, said Basilio died in hospital in Rochester, New York.

"During the 1950s and 1960s Carmen was everyone's hero," Hall of Fame executive director Edward Brophy said. "They talked about him in the coffee shops, grocery stores, gas stations and barbershops all the time."

"And they still talk about him today. He was loved, re-

spected and idolized. His career and memories will last forever in the Village of Canastota."

Basilio, who was born in Canastota on April 2, 1927, twice won the welterweight world title, first from Tony DeMarco in 1955 and then from Johnny Saxton in 1956.

He beat Robinson for the middleweight world crown in 1957, stepping up in weight to challenge Robinson in a marquee match at Yankee Stadium and emerging from the brutal encounter with a split decision victory.

He lost the middleweight title to Robinson by another split decision in March of 1958.

The first world champion trained by Angelo Dundee, Basilio used an aggressive, charging style and a powerful left hook in wins over Lew Jenkins, Ike Williams, Billy Graham, Gil Turner, Art Aragon, Gasper Ortega and Don Jordan among others during his career.

He finished his pro career with a record of 56-16-7 with 27 knock-outs.

Tennis: Djokovic fights back to beat old rival Murray

LONDON (AFP) - Novak Djokovic won the latest installment of his thrilling rivalry with Andy Murray as the world number one fought back to secure a dramatic 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory in the ATP Tour Finals at London's O2 Arena on Wednesday.

Djokovic has a 100 percent record after two Group A matches at the season-ending event and will be guaranteed a place in the semi-finals if France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeats Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych later on Wednesday.

World number three Murray now needs to win his final group match against Tsonga on Friday to avoid an early exit after the US Open champion failed to take advantage of a promising start.

"We really pushed each other up to the last ball. It could have gone either way. It was enjoyable to be part of," Djokovic said.

Djokovic and Murray have been on-court rivals and off-court friends since the day they first faced off at an Under-12s tournament in the south of France.

And, with Roger Federer approaching the end of his career and Rafael Nadal hampered by knee problems, their meetings have emerged as the sport's most significant occasions.

In 2012 alone they have



clashed seven times, with Djokovic starting the year with victory in the Australian Open semi-finals and Murray getting his revenge with an Olympic last four win and then, even more significantly, a five-set triumph over the Serb to win his first Grand Slam title at the US Open.

Djokovic won their most recent meeting in the Shanghai final after saving five match points and his self-preservation instincts helped him survive another epic showdown lasting two hours and 34 minutes.

With their two Grand Slam meetings this year both timed at just short of five hours,

Murray expected another grueling clash against one of the few players who can match his stamina and defensive skills. He wasn't to be disappointed.

Leading 4-3, Djokovic suddenly lost concentration and Murray, correctly challenging a crucial call on break point, seized his chance to draw level.

That was the cue for the most intense period of the match as both players slugged it out in search of the knockout blow.

It was Djokovic who delivered it, breaking for a 5-4 lead, then saving two break points and finally bringing to a close a decidedly heavyweight bout.